



# Cameroon

# The Oroko

## 'You are Welcome'

Ten dialect groups in the hilly rainforest of SW Cameroon share the greeting "**Oroko!**", meaning *(you are) Welcome!*"

Hospitality comes easily to the Oroko, but maintaining social harmony is a constant struggle. Jealousy, hatred, and the fear of witchcraft tear families and communities apart.

Most seek answers in African traditional religion, education and development, but poverty and disintegration of the family continue.

Committed Christian leaders are emerging at a critical time. The Oroko New Testament and Jesus Film are nearing completion, providing the Oroko with the opportunity to finally hear and understand God's welcome in their heart language.



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### Daily Life

Almost everyone depends on subsistence farming to provide for their families, even those who are employed. With hard work, most families can provide food for their families, but it is difficult to earn enough to cover education and health needs.

Saving is difficult because of obligations to help extended family members. The tropical climate also leads to high occurrences of malaria, parasites and infections.

Rampant immorality is giving HIV/AIDS a foothold and alcoholism is widespread. Most hope for a better future for their children, but wonder if it will happen.

### Song, Dance and Drums

No Oroko celebration would be complete without song, dance and drums. As the bare-chested drummer rhythmically slaps his tall drum, brightly clothed women dance forward, clapping, shuffling their feet to the beat and rapidly vibrating their shoulders forward and back.

Meanwhile, guests are served palm wine and bitter cola nuts dipped in a spicy peanut sauce.

Before the program begins, a prayer is said and then the **juju** (traditional religion) leader pours some wine out as an offering to the ancestors. Now, the party may begin!

### 'Baptized Pagans'

Despite Christianity's influence for over 100 years, animism is still the predominant belief system. Traditional religious groups still govern many village affairs.

The church admits that it is full of "baptized pagans" who turn to animistic rituals when problems arise. Without local Scriptures or trained leaders, the gospel has made little impact. Many want to live as Christians but lack the power or understanding needed.

# Bible Translation and Literacy

## World Team among the Oroko

World Team Cameroon began ministry among the Oroko in 1998. From 1998 to 2004, the Oroko team helped lay the groundwork for Bible translation.

After initial language and culture learning, the team focused on linguistic analysis and began building relationships with church and village leaders. The Oroko Language Development Association was organized and the first Oroko alphabet was established, along with literacy materials.

In 2005, the Oroko Bible Translation InterChurch Committee was formed. Translators were selected, trained, and the translation work began. Literacy work also continued.

Now, Oroko is beginning to be taught in primary schools and various scripture portions are available for church use. The Oroko Jesus Film will be completed in 2017 and the Oroko New Testament will be published and available in 2018.



As the New Testament translation work comes to a close, World Team will hand over discipleship, leadership training, and Scripture-in-Use to Oroko believers.

Research is still needed to complete a dictionary and determine if all 10 Oroko dialects will be able to use the current translation or if dialect adaptations will be needed.

We praise God for the progress that has been made in translation and literacy work among the Oroko!

## Ministry Overview

People	The Oroko
Language	10 Oroko dialects and Pidgin English
Location	Cameroon, Africa
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tutor for MKs —allow experienced workers to spend more time on translation, literacy and other ministry</li><li>• Linguistics —assist in the completion and publication of an Oroko dictionary (1 or more years)</li><li>• Linguistics —analyze dialect variations and manage dialect adaptations of the New Testament (1 or more years)</li></ul>

*Approximately 140,000 Oroko people live scattered throughout 220 remote villages.*

*They are beginning to hear and understand God's Word in their own language! Join us in bringing in the harvest the Lord is preparing!*

*Is God leading you to go or to support this ministry through your prayers and gifts?*



**Join the Team!**

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